

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 17-41 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 21, 22, 26 and 39 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 17 and 35 have been amended without prejudice based on Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and reasons for allowance. Claim 25 has been amended to maintain claim antecedence.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his time in a telephone interview on February 22, 2006, in which claims 17, 21, 35 and 39 were discussed. The Examiner indicated that if all the limitations in dependent claims 21 and 39 were included in independent claims 17 and 35, respectively, the application would be in condition for allowance (or pre-allowance review) and that pre-allowance review would result in a notice of allowance or a further office action.

In particular, the Examiner indicated that claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. All of the elements of claim 21 have been included in amended claim 17. As such, Applicant submits that independent claim 17 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner also indicated that claim 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. All of the elements of claim 39 have been included in amended claim 35. As such, Applicant submits that independent claim 35 is in condition for allowance.

For similar reasons, as well as the additional limitations contained therein, claims 18-20, 23-25, 27-34, and 38-41, which are dependent on independent claims 17 and 35, are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

As the Examiner has indicated that claims 36 and 37 are allowed, Applicant submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favourable action on this application is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any further concerns regarding the language of the claims or the applicability of the cited references, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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